

BRIEFS



ROSS AWARD PRESENTED

BLOOMFIELD, Conn. — The Donald Ross Society has presented its first scholarship grant to Benny Bennett Jr. of Creedmoor, N.C., a senior at North Carolina State. Bennett, an agronomy and turf sciences student, received a check for \$2,500 from Scholarship Committee Chairmen Arthur Langan of Manlius, N.Y., and the Honorable P. Richard Thomas of Meadville, Pa.

RESEARCH UNVEILED IN VIRGINIA

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The Virginia Tech Turf and Landscape Field Days will reveal the latest turfgrass and landscape

research on Sept. 21-23 at the university and Blacksburg Marriott. Wednesday's agenda includes tours of the Extension's research plot and a demonstration tour that begins at the campus's Lane Stadium. Studies are being done in a number of areas including biostimulants, growth regulators, late fertilization of Bermudagrass, fungicide synergism, pre-emergent herbicides and biotechnology. For information call Virginia Cooperative Extension, 426 Smyth Hall, Blacksburg 24061; 703-231-9736.



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INLAND NORTHWEST SHOW ANNOUNCED

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Inland Empire Association of Golf Course Superintendents expects more than 30 companies and scores of superintendents to take part in its 7th Annual Inland Northwest Turf and Landscape Trade Show on Jan. 27, 1994 at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds. All proceeds from the event will benefit turfgrass research and education, according to IEGCSA. More information is available from Julie Boyce at the IEGCSA, 1708 N. Lee St., Spokane 99207; 509-534-4161.

TATE HONORED IN MICHIGAN

SOUTH LYON, Mich. — The Golf Association of Michigan presented C.E. "Tuck" Tate its 6th Annual Distinguished Service Award at its Club Representatives Day activities at Walnut Creek Country Club here on Aug. 23. The honor is the highest given by GAM, recognizing Tate's "many years of selfless service to the golf and turfgrass industry in Michigan." The award was also presented to the late Ray Maguire, long-time pro at Birmingham Country Club. Tate was a founder of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation at Michigan State University and endowed a scholarship fund for turfgrass students. He was presented the Distinguished Service Award of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America in 1992.



C.E. "Tuck" Tate



Dr. Ron Kendall, left, and graduate student Thomas Rainwater check a birdhouse at the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island.

Clemson scientists' study looks at Kiawah as 'total ecosystem'

By PETER BLAIS

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Clemson University researchers are expected to publish initial findings in January on the environmental impact of the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island.

The three-year study of the seaside layout, a living laboratory designed to be environmentally friendly and the site of the 1992 Ryder Cup, should provide scientifically based information on the effects of golf course construction and maintenance on plants, animals and water quality.

"We're looking at the golf course as a total ecosystem. We're taking apart the various components of a golf course and seeing how they respond to pesticides, fertilizers and other stresses," said Ron Kendall, director of Clemson's Institute of Wildlife and Environmental Toxicology.

Kendall will be the study's lead author. He is overseeing the efforts of the five faculty members and seven graduate students assigned to the project.

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Beware, be protected

Killer bees invade Arizona, Texas; California next?

Africanized Honey Bees (AHB), which have killed 900 people in South America and 48 in Mexico, have migrated into 50 Texas counties and now have been discovered in Arizona.

The bees are especially sensitive to the noise of outdoor power equipment, and reportedly have been sent into attack frenzies by the sound.

U.S. Department of Agriculture research geneticist Anita Collins, of the Bee Research Lab in Weslaco, Texas, said attacks in that state have involved "a lot of lawn mowers." The lawn and landscape industry is one of the most vulnerable to attack from the bee which can detect vibrations of man and animals walking 100 to 150 feet away.

Experts say the AHBs preferred feeding material, warm-season plants, is abundant in places like Phoenix, Tucson, San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco. University of Arizona entomologist David Langston said the bee will migrate along riparian areas and predicted they will move along the Central Arizona Project Canal into the Phoenix area.

The bees, which have migrated northward about 300 miles a year since escaping from an experiment in Brazil years ago, will nest in nearly any cavity in the ground or in trees or around buildings.

Compared to European honey bees, AHB colonies have 10 times the number of guard bees who protect them. A University of Miami botany student in Costa Rica died from 8,000 stings in a 1986 attack.

AHBs are nomadic and swarm much more often than other types, so they may appear in areas where they have never been seen before. Experts recommend:

- Checking for bees before trimming

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Awash in rubble and silt, Stagg Hill Golf Course in Manhattan, Kan., took a hard hit from flood waters.

'Drenched' turns to 'underwater' for some Midwestern courses

By PAT FINLEN, CGCS

QUIVIRA LAKE, Kan. — Kansas City Country Club was preparing for the Trans-Mississippi Golf Tournament on July 10, but course superintendent Loren Breedlove had bigger worries that morning.

Brush Creek, which runs through the course grounds, had come out of its banks after 10 inches of rain. The course lost two bridges; four greens were under water; and most sand traps were washed out to the point that drain tile was sticking up out of the bunkers. With the practice round scheduled for Monday the 12th, the crew spent the next three days repairing the course.

Drain tile was put back in bunkers and sand was replaced. Greens were hosed off to remove silt and bridge repairs were made. The practice round had to be canceled, but the rest of the tournament went off without a hitch, except for the occasional rains and extreme humidity.

This was a relatively happy ending to what has been a miserably wet 13 months — the last six of 1992 and the first seven of 1993. In

Pat Finlen is head superintendent at Quivira Lakes Country Club in Quivira Lakes, Kan. He is also editor of Heart Beat, the official publication of the Heart of America GCSA.

portions of the Kansas City metro area, rainfall for '92 totaled 50 inches—34 falling in the last six months. For the first seven months of 1993, the same region has received more than 45 inches of rain—normal precipitation is around 35 inches per year.

Maintenance crews routinely shoveled sand back into bunkers once a week, sometimes twice. If the sun did shine, it didn't last long. By early summer it was routine for most courses to mow until dark on those days when it wasn't raining.

The inordinate amount of rainfall in Kansas City had left its mark by midsummer. From June 27 until July 30, more than 20 inches of rain fell. It was not uncommon to get up to an inch per day. With temperatures around 80-85 and humidity extremely high, cool season grasses were at the brink of major disease outbreaks. (Courses in the Kansas City area use a combination of cool- and warm-season grasses. Ryegrass and zoysiagrass are predominant on fairways and tees, while most courses have cool-season roughs.)

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The rains continued throughout Kansas and Missouri during the month of July.

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Ganning: No tricks in redesign getting Belfry ready for Ryder

By TREVOR LEDGER

SUTTON COLDFIELD, England— In 1981, the Ryder Cup was to be staged here at The Belfry. But the five-year-old course hadn't matured. Enter course manager Derek Ganning with the charge of developing the Dave Thomas-designed course to the required standard. Twelve years later, Ganning is still here with two Ryder Cups behind him and a third looming Sept. 24-26.

Ganning has plenty of day-to-day responsibility in tending to the Belfry's two courses — the Derby and Brabazon, the latter being the Ryder Cup venue. To have 24 of the world's finest golfers playing the course is a wonderful added bonus. But it is just that — a bonus.

"I work for a progressive company [De Vere Hotels]," Ganning explained. "The Ryder Cup will come and go in September and the 10-year project plan will continue. The investment will continue."

The investment has certainly been there up to now. Between autumn 1990 and spring 1992, Ganning oversaw approximately \$1.2 million worth of rede-

sign. Much of this was spent bringing in 40,000 cubic meters of soil to build spectator mounds and hummocks on eight of the Brabazon holes. Coupled with a number of new tees and bunker locations, this work has cost more than the original 36-hole layout.

"We've tried to lay out a golf course that is fair to both sides," Ganning said. "We have no tricks up our sleeves."

Unlike Kiawah's Ocean Course, site of the '91 Ryder Cup, the water fauna at The Belfry is all harmless. But Ganning did take part in a publicity stunt involving a couple of crocodiles from Drayton Manor Zoo.

"I was photographed holding one of them. I held on tight!"

The British climate ultimately spoiled this attempt to rival Kiawah's alligators. What a shame to have lost the headline: "The Belfry Bites Back!"

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Like many successful Brits, the 53-year-old Ganning has his roots in the military, serving with the Northumberland Fusiliers and 22nd Airborne. This is where he received the spark which

SUPER FOCUS



Derek Ganning, above right, at The Belfry, site of the Ryder Cup this month.

illuminated his career path.

Part of his duties in countries such as Borneo and Hong Kong was to prepare sports fields — including golf courses — for the officers. Basic Army groundsmanship training equipped Ganning to become greenkeeper (not superintendent, and certainly not greenskeeper) at a little nine-hole course called Dartmouth in the Black Country of England's West Midlands. The initial spark soon became a flame.

Academic qualifications from King's Heath College followed short courses in financial and project management from Aston University. From there Ganning teamed with Fred Autrey in developing, designing and building a course for the city of Birmingham. The success of this project did not go unnoticed by those who developed another Midlands course, The Belfry — immature and in need of whipping into shape.

Ganning is now course manager and heads a team of 16 ground staff, all with key areas of responsibility — responsible in its strictest sense.

"There is no room in this industry for prima donnas," he said. "All departments negotiate their own budgets with me and are financially responsible thereafter."

The crew at The Belfry is more fortunate than most in the U.K. Ganning believes in education and all new trainees follow a two-year, day-release course with the option of going on to earn a Higher National Diploma at Rees Heath College. Offering such opportunities is not necessarily pure altruism, just progressive common sense.

"Golf courses today should be training people so that, on a 36-hole complex like this one, you have two head greenkeepers and three in reserve for the future development of the course," he said. "Promotion from within is essential. That way you know what sort of person you're getting."

Or losing. Ganning has watched some talented people get snatched up by other courses. Is this a case of a highly skilled teacher and motivator being hoisted by his own petard? Not a bit of it.

"One of the things I love about this job is helping people to better themselves," said Ganning. "John O'Brien left me to run Banff Springs in Canada; Chris Curly is now at a course in Vienna; and Richard Hitchcock has started his own construction company. That's just this year."

Ganning, for one, has no plans for departure. Twelve years ago he made an immediate impact at The Belfry by planting 30,000 trees.

"I know I'm getting old because the trees are getting big now," he said. "As to the future, who can say what they'll be doing in a further 12 years. I'll not be able to finish the job I started here. Greenkeeping is like a landscape painting — it's never finished."

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Before



4 Minutes Later...



Killer bees are here

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a tree or moving debris.

- Wearing long-sleeve shirts, trousers, light-colored clothing, and especially white socks, because bees are known to sting ankles covered with black socks.
- Avoiding wearing shiny jewelry and leather.
- Using perfumes and other odorous products sparingly, because the bees are sensitive to odors.
- Being aware of insect flights from a central point.
- Being aware of escape routes.